GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4816
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2000
HARASSEMENT TO INDIAN DOCTORS
DINESH CHANDRA YADAV;RAM JEEVAN SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Indian doctors practising in Australia have alleged harassment and acts of racism;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

Answer

The Minister of State for External Affairs (Shri Ajit Kumar Panja)

(a) One Indian doctor who was practising in the State of Queensland, Australia has alleged harassment and acts of racism.No other Indian doctor in Australia has complained to us.

(b) The complaints centered around (1) alleged pressure on her by her Australian employer to commit unethical practices such as administering psychotropic substances and false certification of insanity; (2) denial by the Medical Board of Queensland of registration despite her possessing the requisite sponsorship from another employer; and (3) refusal by the Australian High Commission of a `bridging visa` to return to Australia.

(c) Earlier MEA had taken up the matter with the Australian High Commission in Delhi who regretted that rules do not permit bridging visa to be issued outside Australia. More recently the Indian High Commission in Canberra has contacted the Australian authorities in Queensland, in context of her complaint of harassment.